

**REMARKS**

In view of the indication of the allowability of Claims 3, 4 and 9 and the above amendments, Claims 1, 4-8, 10 and 11 should now be allowed. The four Section 102(b) rejections of Claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 and the two Section 103(a) rejection of Claims 5, 6, 10 and 11 are now deemed moot.

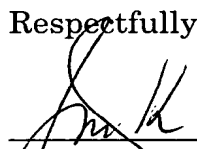
Early allowance of this case is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket # 056208.52588US).

Respectfully submitted,

January 21, 2005

  
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